

Andrew J. O'Connor, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of Theology and Religious Studies
St. Norbert College
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EDUCATION

- Ph.D. Theology (World Religions & World Church). University of Notre Dame (2019)
- *Minor Area*: Christianity and Judaism in Antiquity
- M.A. Middle Eastern Studies. University of Chicago (2013)
- B.A. History (with Honors). University of Wisconsin-Madison (2010)
- *Certificates*: Religious Studies, Middle Eastern Studies, Medieval Studies
 - *Honors*: Graduated with Distinction, Dean's List (2006-2010), Phi Alpha Theta Honor Society

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

St. Norbert College Assistant Professor of Theology and Religious Studies (2019–Present)

PUBLICATIONS

Book Chapters:

“Saul, David, and Solomon,” in *Biblical Traditions in the Qur'an*, edited by Marianna Klar and Nicolai Sinai. Princeton: Princeton University Press (in progress).

“‘Warn them of the Day of the Impending’: Imminent Eschatology and Rhetoric in the Qur’ān,” in collected volume of the 2017 International Meeting of IQSA, edited by Mehdi Azaiez. De Gruyter, forthcoming (expected 2023).

[“Prophet of the Mythos: H.P. Lovecraft, Muhammad, and Arabic Scriptures,” in *Theology and H.P. Lovecraft*, edited by Austin Freeman. Theology & Pop Culture. Lanham: Fortress Academic, 2022. 243–269.](#)

[“Obeying God and His Messenger: Medinan Prophetology in the Meccan Qur’an?” in *Unlocking the Medinan Qur’an*, edited by Nicolai Sinai. Leiden: Brill, 2022. 288–312.](#)

Peer-Reviewed Articles:

“A Close Reading of *Sūrat al-Sajda* (Q 32) and its Engagement with Biblical Tradition.” (accepted for publication, June 2020, *Bulletin of the Royal Institute for Inter-Faith Studies*)

“Qur’ānic Covenants Reconsidered: *mīthāq* and ‘*abd*’ in Polemical Context,” *Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations* 30, no. 1 (2019): 1–22.

“The Popular Psyche and Representations of the ‘Religious Other’ in Medieval Sīras.” *Lights: The MESSA Journal* 1, no. 3 (2012): 39–47. MESSA, University of Chicago.

Encyclopedia Entries and Miscellaneous Publications

Entries: “Mary,” “Covenant,” “Idolatry,” “Elisha,” “Ashab al-Ayka,” “Dhu l-Kifl,” “People of Tubba’,” in the *Yale Dictionary of the Qur’an*, ed. Gabriel Said Reynolds and Mun’im Sirry. New Haven: Yale University Press. Forthcoming.

“Bible and the Quran,” *Oxford Bibliographies in Biblical Studies*. Oxford University Press, 2022. Forthcoming.

Entry: “English translators of the Qur’an,” in *Christian-Muslim Relations: A Bibliographical History, vol. 17, Great Britain, the Netherlands, and Scandinavia (1800-1914)*, ed. David Thomas and John Chesworth. Leiden: Brill, 2021. 286–293.

Entries: “Arabic Language of the Qur’an,” “Compilation of the Qur’an,” “Abbasid Caliphate,” “Umayyad Caliphate,” “Dhimmi Status,” “Islamic State, Muhammad and the Foundations of,” “Book of the Dead,” in *Religion and World Civilizations: How Faith Shaped Societies from Antiquity to the Present*, edited by Andrew Holt. ABC-Clio, forthcoming.

Book Reviews

Review of Stephen J. Shoemaker, *A Prophet Has Appeared: The Rise of Islam Through Christian and Jewish Eyes, a Sourcebook* (Oakland: University of California Press, 2021), *Reading Religion*, 2021. [Link](#).

Review of Mark Durie, *The Qur’an and its Biblical Reflexes: Investigations into the Genesis of a Religion* (Lanham: Lexington Books, 2018), *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* 80, no. 1 (2021), 218–221.

Review of Jeffrey Einboden, *The Qur’an and Kerygma: Biblical Receptions of the Muslim Scripture across a Millennium* (Sheffield: Equinox, 2019), *Review of Qur’anic Research* 7, no. 1 (2021), 1–11.

Review of Andrea Zaki Stephanous, ed. *Arabic Christian Theology* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2019), *Trinity Journal* 41 (2020), 116–118.

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

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| 2021-22 | Racial Equity and Interfaith Cooperation Award, Interfaith Youth Core. |
| 2021 | Honors Program Faculty Fellow. St. Norbert College. |
| 2020–21 | Sturzl Center for Community Service & Learning, Faculty Fellow for Community Engagement. St. Norbert College |
| 2020–21 | Norman Miller Center for Peace, Justice & Public Understanding, Affiliate Faculty Program. St. Norbert College |
| 2020 | Andrew Rippin Best Paper Prize. International Qur’anic Studies Association |
| 2017–18 | Fulbright Research Fellowship. Amman, Jordan. U.S. Department of State |

- 2014– University Presidential Fellowship. University of Notre Dame Graduate School
- 2012–13 Foreign Language Area Studies (FLAS) Academic Year Fellowship for Arabic. University of Chicago
- 2011–12 University Tuition Scholarship. University of Chicago
- 2009–10 Mensink Award for Honors Senior Thesis. University of Wisconsin-Madison

TRAVEL & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

- 2022 St. Norbert College Faculty Trip to Israel-Palestine, Norman Miller Center for Peace and Justice
- 2021 Interfaith Leadership Video Series Stipend, Interfaith Youth Core
- 2020 Norman Miller Center for Peace, Justice & Public Understanding, Faculty Instructional Support Grant
- 2020 The Killeen Chair of Theology and Philosophy Lecture Series, Instructional Support Grant
- 2019 Academic Affairs Professional Development Grant. St. Norbert College
- 2018 Department of Theology Professional Development Grant. University of Notre Dame
Also awarded 2017, 2016, 2015
- 2018 Graduate Student Union, Conference Presentation Grant. University of Notre Dame
Also awarded 2017, 2015
- 2017 College of Arts & Letters, Professional Development Award. University of Notre Dame
- 2017 Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts (ISLA), Notebaert Professional Development Fund. University of Notre Dame
- 2017 Nanovic Institute for European Studies, Graduate Student Professional Development Grant (Travel to Oxford, UK). University of Notre Dame
- 2013 American Oriental Society Graduate Student Award. American Oriental Society
- 2013 Graduate Student Affairs Travel Grant. University of Chicago

ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

- 05 Sept 2022 “Penitent Prophets: Admonition and Consolation of the Qur’anic Messenger in Q Ṣād 38,” International Qur’anic Studies Association Annual Meeting. Palermo, Sicily.
- 21 April 2022 “Sand Peoples and Easterlings: Images of Arabs and Muslims in Sci-Fi / Fantasy.” Cassandra Voss Center for Women & Gender Studies, St. Norbert College. De Pere, WI.
- 05 Feb 2022 “Apocalypse Now?: Prophetic Authority and Warfare in the Medinan Qur’an,” Society of Biblical Literature Midwest Region Meeting: Apocalyptic Literature Panel. Virtual conference.

- 20 Nov 2021 “Guidance Stories: A Prophetological Profile of Q al-Naml 27,” International Qur’anic Studies Association Annual Meeting: Linguistic, Literary, and Thematic Perspectives on the Qur’anic Corpus Panel. San Antonio, Texas.
- 23 Nov 2019 “Paraenesis, Recreation, and the Revocation of Bodily Agency in Surat Ya Sin (Q 36),” International Qur’anic Studies Association Annual Meeting: The Qur’an and the Biblical Tradition Panel. San Diego, California. (Co-winner of the 2020 Andrew Rippin Best Paper Prize)
- 2 June 2019 “Prolegomenon to a Pneumatology of the Qur’an.” College Theology Society, Sixty-Fifth Annual Convention. Holy Cross College, Notre Dame, Indiana.
- 25 April 2019 “Prophet of the Mythos: H.P. Lovecraft, Muḥammad, and Arabic Revelations.” Notre Dame Islamic Studies Colloquium. Notre Dame, Indiana.
- 19 Nov 2018 “Prophetic Authority and Formulaic Diction in *al-musabbihāt*.” International Qur’anic Studies Association Annual Meeting: Surah Studies Panel. Denver, Colorado.
- 17 July 2018 “Culture, Context, and the Critical Study of Religion.” Seminar on Cultural Fluency, under the patronage of Prince El Hassan bin Talal, co-sponsored by the Royal Institute for Interfaith Studies, Tantur Ecumenical Institute, and the World Religions & World Church area of the Department of Theology at the University of Notre Dame. Amman, Jordan.
- 5 June 2018 “Messenger-Reports and the Construction of Prophetic History.” The Qur’ān and Christianity Seminar. Tantur Ecumenical Institute, Jerusalem.
- 9 April 2018 “Religious Diversity, Inter-faith Dialogue, and the Diaspora in Jordan.” 2018 Fulbright Enrichment Seminar, U.S. Fulbright Student Researchers in the Middle East & North Africa. Rabat, Morocco.
- 1 Jan 2018 “Only a Warner? The Prophetic Vocation in the Qur’an and Early Islam.” “The Whole is Greater than its Parts”: Christianity Unity and Interreligious Encounter Today; World Religions World Church Conference. University of Notre Dame’s Rome Global Gateway, Rome, Italy.
- 6 July 2017 “‘When is this victory, if you are truthful?’ Apocalyptic as Polemic in the Qur’an.” Qur’anic Studies: Methods, Contexts and Interpretations: 2017 International Meeting of IQSA, co-hosted by Beit al-Hikma (Académie Tunisienne des Sciences, des Lettres et des Arts Département des Sciences islamiques). Tunis, Tunisia.
- 20 Mar 2017 “Obeying God and his Messenger: Medinan Prophetology in the Meccan Qur’an?” Unlocking the Medinan Qur’an Workshop. Pembroke College, University of Oxford, UK.
- 21 Nov 2016 Qur’an Seminar Panelist: Q 27:45-58 (Narratives), Q 33:28-37 (Women/Contemporary Events), Q 49 (Contemporary Events), Q 83 (Eschatology). International Qur’anic Studies Association Annual Meeting. San Antonio, Texas.
- 21 April 2016 “Qur’ānic Covenant Reconsidered.” Notre Dame Islamic Studies Colloquium. Notre Dame, Indiana.
- 2 April 2016 Panel Moderator, “Narratives of Early Islamic Orthodoxies: Network of Scholars.” 2016 Annual Conference for the Midwest Region of the American Academy of Religion. Muncie, Indiana.
- 22 Nov 2015 “Qur’anic Covenant Reconsidered: *Mīthāq* and ‘*Abd*’ in Polemical Context.” International Qur’anic Studies Association Annual Meeting: The Qur’an and the Biblical Tradition Panel. Atlanta, Georgia.

- 18 Apr 2015 “Faithfulness, Faithlessness, and Confessional Demarcation in the Qur’ān.” Indiana University Bloomington Department of Religious Studies, Graduate Student Conference: ‘Religion, Conflict, and Boundary Maintenance.’ Bloomington, Indiana.
- 7 Feb 2015 “Covenant Abandoned: The Covenant topos in the Qur’ān and the Development of a Pentateuchal Concept.” 2015 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Region of the Society of Biblical Literature: Pentateuch Panel. Bourbonnais, Illinois.
- 3 May 2013 “The Copto-Arabic *Sīra* of Anbā Ruways ‘the Naked Shaykh’.” Middle East History and Theory Conference; 28th Annual: Sources for Premodern History Panel. Chicago, Illinois.
- 21 Apr 2013 “The *Vitae* of Coptic Saints in Mamlūk Egypt.” American Research Center in Egypt; 64th Annual Meeting: Post-Pharaonic Egypt Panel. Cincinnati, Ohio.
- 15 Mar 2013 “Hagiography in Dialogue with Polemics: The *Life of Matthew* in Mamlūk Egypt.” American Oriental Society; 223rd Annual Meeting: Christian Arabic Panel. Portland, Oregon.
- 5 Nov 2010 “Change and Continuity in High Medieval Egypt: Did Regimes Matter?” The L&S Honors Program 50th Anniversary Celebration. University of Wisconsin-Madison.

PUBLIC LECTURES & PRESENTATIONS

- 08 March 2022 “Community Faith Conversations: Where Do We Go From Here” (invited public panel discussion). Sponsored by St. Anne’s Episcopal Church and GIFT (Gathered in Faith Together). St. Anne’s Episcopal Church. De Pere, WI.
- 08 Feb 2022 “Community Faith Conversations: Big Questions” (invited public panel discussion). Sponsored by St. Anne’s Episcopal Church and GIFT (Gathered in Faith Together). St. Anne’s Episcopal Church. De Pere, WI.
- 14 Dec 2021 “Islam: Community Faith Conversations” (invited public lecture). Sponsored by St. Anne’s Episcopal Church and GIFT (Gathered in Faith Together). St. Anne’s Episcopal Church. De Pere, WI.
- 10 Nov 2021 “Why Religion Matters in Medical Practice” (invited lecture). Sponsored by the Christian Medical & Dental Associations. Virtual presentation.
- 19 Sept 2021 “Afghan Refugee Project.” St. Norbert College Parish - OUT | LOUD. De Pere, WI.
- 18 Sept 2021 “What is Islam?,” SNC Day Faculty Lecture Series, St. Norbert College. De Pere, WI.
- 25 March 2021 “From Anxiety to Compassion: Stories about the Middle East, Faith, and Other Religions.” Agape Latte, Emmaus Center, St. Norbert College. De Pere, WI.
- 3 March 2021 “World Religions: Islam.” Recorded interview for De Pere Middle School.

COURSES TAUGHT

- St. Norbert College
 THRS 339 – World Scriptures
 THRS 340 – World Religions in Dialogue
 THRS 343 – Muslim and Christian Theologies in Dialogue

THRS 350 – Christianity & Religious Diversity
Community Engagement (CENG) course
THRS 389b-311 – Interfaith Relations in the Middle East
Global Seminar (Italy & Jordan, Winter 2022)
THRS 117 – Theological Foundations
HONR 289 – Honors-Killeen Tutorial: “Who is My Neighbor?: Migration, Nations, and Borders”
THEO 578 – Theologies of Ecumenical and Interreligious Dialogue

University of Notre Dame

THEO 20828 – Christianity and World Religions
THEO 64286 (TA) – The Qur’an and Its Relation to the Bible. (online MA course)
THEO 20847 (TA) – Christianity and the Challenge of Buddhism.
THEO 20830 (TA) – Islam and Christian Theology.

NotreDameX (edX online course)

TH120.2x (TA) – Introduction to the Quran

LANGUAGES

Advanced Classical: Classical Arabic, Syriac, Aramaic (Targumic), Biblical Hebrew
Intermediate Classical: Coptic (Bohairic & Sahidic), Koinē Greek
Modern: English, Modern Standard Arabic, Levantine Colloquial Arabic, German, French

LANGUAGE STUDIES

2015 Intensive Course on Christian Arabic, Princeton University Department of Near Eastern Studies, Princeton, New Jersey. May 11–15, 2015
Instructor: Alexander Treiger.

2012 Qasid Arabic Institute. Amman, Jordan
Completed Level 4 Modern Standard Arabic Summer Program
Additional coursework: Accessing Classical Texts

2010 Al-Ameen Associates Al-Azhar University Intensive Summer Arabic Program. Cairo, Egypt
Coursework on the Qur’an and Culture; Modern Standard and Classical Arabic
Placement in highest level; highest score in class and level

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

June 2022 Faculty Participant, Connect WI Conference, UW Oshkosh, June 7, 2022.

June 2021 Faculty Participant, Teaching Interfaith Understanding Seminar, Interfaith Youth Core, June 13–18, 2021

2020-21 Faculty Fellow for Community Engagement. Sturzl Center for Community Service & Learning, St. Norbert College.

2020-21 Norman Miller Center Affiliate Faculty. The Norman Miller Center for Peace, Justice & Public Understanding, St. Norbert College.

- Nov 2019 Seminar Attendee: “Civic Prompts in the Major: Designs in Social Responsibility and the Public Good,” hosted by the Association of American Colleges & Universities. Loyola University Chicago.
- July 2019 Certificate: “Striving for Excellence in College and University Teaching,” from the Kaneb Center for Teaching and Learning, University of Notre Dame.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

St. Norbert College

- The Killeen Chair of Theology and Philosophy
 - Chair of the Killeen Chair Committee, 2022–present
 - Theology Representative, 2019–2022
 - The Killeen Chair lecture series brings nationally and internationally renown scholars and speakers to the St. Norbert Campus to engage the public on theological and philosophical issues relevant to contemporary issues.
- Honors Program Committee, Committee Member (2020–2023)
- Library Advisory Committee, Committee Member (2020–2022)

Professional Societies

- International Qur’anic Studies Association (IQSA)
 - Chair of the Programming Committee (2019–)

Academic Journals

- *Lights: the MESSA Journal* (University of Chicago Center for Middle Eastern Studies)
 - Editorial Board (2011–13)
- *Archive: Journal of Undergraduate History* (UW – Madison History Department)
 - Editorial Board (2009–10).

University of Notre Dame

- Graduate Theological Society (GTS)
 - President (2019)
 - Vice-President (2016–17; 2018)
 - Graduate Student Union (GSU) Liaison (2015–16)
- Notre Dame Islamic Studies Colloquium (NDISC)
 - Director, 2016–17
- Graduate Student Union (GSU)
 - Member of Social Committee (2015–16)

INTER-RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE

Research Intern, the Royal Institute for Interfaith Studies. Amman, Jordan. 2017–18.

University of Notre Dame Scriptural Reasoning Forum. 2015–16.

Lubar Institute for the Study of Abrahamic Religions, Undergraduate Forum. University of Wisconsin – Madison. 2009–11.

MEMBERSHIPS/ORGANIZATIONS

International Qur’anic Studies Association (IQSA)

College Theology Society (CTS)

Society of Biblical Literature (SBL)

Religion and Pluralism in the Medieval Mediterranean Working Group (University of Notre Dame, 2018-19)

Middle Eastern Studies Students’ Association (University of Chicago, 2011–13)

Middle Eastern Studies Association (MESA) (2011–12)

American Research Center in Egypt (ARCE) (2009–10, 2012–13)

REFERENCES

Gabriel Said Reynolds (adviser)
University of Notre Dame
reynolds@nd.edu

Mun'im Sirry
University of Notre Dame
msirry@nd.edu

Bradley Malkovsky
University of Notre Dame
Bradley.J.Malkovsky.1@nd.edu